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MUNICIPAL



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\$15,000,000 FOR MUNICIPALITIES



MINISTERS and DEPUTIES at FEDERATION CONFERENCE - Attending the annual conference of The Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities held last month at Victoria, B.C., were ministers and deputy ministers of provincial Departments of Municipal Affairs across the nation. Shown above are:

Standing - J.E. Brown, Deputy Minister (B.C.); C.W. Powell, Deputy Minister (Newfoundland); Hon. L.F. McIntosh, Minister (Saskatchewan); Hon. Paul Dozois, Minister (Quebec); Hon. J.S. Brooks, Minister (New Brunswick); Angus W. Morrison, Deputy Minister (Alberta); E.G. Allen, Deputy Minister (New Brunswick).

Seated - Hon. A.J. Hooke, Minister (Alberta); Hon. Wm. K. Warrender, Q.C., Minister (Ontario); Hon. W.D. Black, Minister (B.C.); Jean-L-Doucet, Q.C., Deputy Minister (Quebec); K. Grant Crawford, Deputy Minister (Ontario).

SECRETARIES AT BANFF

BANFF-Although registration was somewhat disappointing, subjects covered and general participation in the twentieth annual refresher course in municipal administration held at the Banff School of Fine Art on June 9 through 11 left nothing to be desired. Under the guidance of Olaf Monsson, President of the Alberta Association of M.D. Secretary-Treasurers, proceedings moved smoothly and those in attendance questioned the various speakers and discussed their problems with enthusiasm undulled by weather.

The opening session featured an official welcome by Mr. Monsson and an address by Chas. Hayes, President of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts. Reeves and councillors were introduced and it was noted there was a gratifying increase over last year in the number of these officials present.

In his usual capable manner, Mr. Hayes paid a sincere tribute to secretary-treasurers whom he described as "continuing" officials. He thanked them for serving as "buffers" for the councils, many of which fail to realize how efficiently this phase of the work is carried on by their secretary-treasurers. However, he added, "We have a warm spot in our hearts for you. We depend upon you, and we are grateful".

(More on Page 7)

IMPROVED FORMULA USED

Allocation of \$15,000,000 appropriated under The Municipalities Assistance Act has been completed and cheques for Alberta's 348 administrative units are being mailed early in July. This new Act replaces the Municipal Assistance Act by which one-half of the revenue collected under the Fuel Oil Tax was distributed to Alberta municipalities.

Last year the total amount distributed was \$10,870,002.19. The cumulative total paid to municipalities from this source up to 1957 is \$56,461,166. Including the current distribution the amount is \$71,461,166.

A new formula (see Bruce's address on Page 3) was devised this year, the results of which are said to produce "a much more equitable distribution than any formula tried to date".

A summary of the 1958 distribution and the totals for 1957 follow:

	1957	1958
Cities..... (8)...	\$ 4,702,869.18	(10).... \$ 5,781,823.72
Towns..... (86)...	1,491,879.59	(86).... 1,892,279.93
Villages..... (148)...	448,740.41	(152).... 563,065.41
Counties..... (7)...	558,489.62	(10).... 1,364,289.32
M.D.'s..... (41)...	3,087,384.29	(38).... 4,671,602.09
I.D.'s..... (48)...	489,639.68	(47).... 596,774.57
Special Areas..... (1)...	65,923.76	(1)..... 95,434.68
S.D.'s in.....		
National Parks .. (4)...	25,075.66	(4)..... 34,730.28
Total	\$10,870,002.19	\$15,000,000.00

The amount distributed this year is over \$4,000,000 more than the total last year and some \$2,500,000 more than The Municipal Assistance Act would have yielded.

Under the new Act, the amount is no longer tied in with The Fuel Oil Tax Act.

FEDERATION MEETS AT COAST

VICTORIA - Sights were set on a full-scale meeting of federal, provincial and municipal leaders at the annual conference of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities held last month in Victoria. The aim of such a three-way parley is said to be a revamping of responsibilities and revenue sources to suit the changes which have taken place in Canada since 1867. Earlier, Mayor Jackson of Hamilton, Federation president, said Ottawa could follow Alberta's example of introducing "an unconditional grant based on a predetermined entitlement for remission to the municipalities through the provinces". He suggested the federal sales tax could serve this purpose.

A resolution calling for federal government measures to speed a solution to the unemployment problem was approved unanimously. Another resolution asked Ottawa to place provincial governments "in a position whereby they will be able to contribute more substantially to the costs of primary and secondary education".

New president is Mayor H.G.R. Mews of St. John's, Nfld. North Bay, Ontario, was chosen for next year's conference.

THE SECOND PAGE . . .

JOTS FROM BANFF

It takes more than rain to mar the grandeur of Banff. There's something in the air that sharpens the senses and makes small events into big adventures. People have less trouble waking up knowing the mountains are there to greet them. No wonder they come from faraway places to spend a few days ... in Banff. No wonder they leave with regret.

Without checking the registration figures, we're guessing there were more councillors but fewer secretary-treasurers at the municipal administration course than last year. We'd like to see more of both, because such a chance to combine business with pleasure sells itself.

President Olaf Monsson, Secretary-Treasurer of Beaver County No. 9, was a busy man introducing the speakers, remembering the announcements and keeping tab on those coffee breaks. The entire committee membership is to be complimented.

We have it on good authority that the ladies enjoyed themselves. Their deliberations, while perhaps not so weighty as those of their men, were equally important.

Professor J.D. Campbell, closely associated with Alberta's hospitalization program, is a lecturer and a chartered accountant. His forceful presentation at Banff left no doubt as to the suitability of this combination for the job at hand.

Amid frequent flashes of wit, Duncan Campbell's story about the stranger lost in the Highlands ("Is there no a Christian in the glen?" "No, we're all Campbells.") raised a hearty chuckle.

We were impressed again with the scope and the downright complexity of administering a municipality. More than a little knowledge of the law is involved ... not to mention accountancy, evaluation, business administration and of course, some of the finer points of finance. Secretary-Treasurers may take a bow any time. They earn it.

We could be wrong, but the relations between the Secretary-Treasurers and officials of the Department of Municipal Affairs struck us as being gratifyingly cordial. Even when there was a difference of opinion, there was a willingness to slug it out with no hint of rancor or antagonism. Friendship, mutual respect and good humor were the order of the day ... where the general atmosphere could easily have been otherwise.

KNOW A BIGGER BARGAIN?

Most of us have divided our total tax bill by twelve and, with righteous indignation, have declaimed, "It costs me \$20 (or \$25 or \$35?) every month to live in my own house!"

Naturally, this doesn't include paint and repairs, utilities, insurance, interest on our mortgage, loss in purchasing power of our dollars or other items. They're extra.

Just taxes.

Now before getting all wrought up over this thing, maybe we should take another quiet look at it. Is our conclusion true? Are our taxes (whatever they may amount to) the price we pay for living in our own houses? Or are they what we pay for the services we expect and, indeed, get?

That puts the whole deal in quite another light ... no?

In our cities and towns we simply will not do without concrete sidewalks and paved streets or (at the very least) a bit of gravel in front of our properties. Part of our taxes go to hire men and machines to do the job.

Rather than paying to "live in our houses" we're buying insurance against loss by fire. And protection against disorderly characters. We're putting our money into a pool which makes it possible to build modern hospitals and fancy schools and other public buildings. Along with our neighbors (none of whom are paying to live in their houses)

we're hiring teachers and clerks and ditch diggers, engineers and stenos, aldermen and jo-boys to work for us ... few of whom are over-paid.

Sure, taxes are high. But let's be reasonable. Let's concentrate on what we're buying. If we do that, we just might agree we're getting a real bargain.

Or does anyone know where we can get more for the same amount of money?

KEEP SMILING!

Did it ever occur to you that a man's life is full of paradoxes? He comes into this world without consent, and leaves it against his will; and the trip between is exceedingly rocky. The rule of contraries is one of the features of his trip:

When he is little, the big girls kiss him - when he is big, the little girls kiss him. If he is poor, he's a bad manager - if he is rich, people suspect he's dishonest. If he needs credit, he can't get it - if he is prosperous, everyone wants to do him a favor.

If he's in politics, it is for graft - if he is out of politics, he is no good to his country. If he doesn't give to charity, he's a stingy cuss - if he does, it's for show. If he gives affection he is a soft specimen - if he cares for no one, he is cold-blooded. If he is actively religious, he is a hypocrite - if he takes no interest in religion, he's a heathen. If he dies young, there was a great future before him - if he lives to an old age, he missed his calling.

If he saves money, he's a miser; if he spends it he's a loafer; if he gets it, he's a grafter; if he doesn't get it he's a bum. So what's the use?
-Elbert Hubbard.

HOME at INNISFAIL

Plans are underway for the construction of a Senior Citizens Home for the Town of Innisfail and district. Financing of the Home (to be built on land donated by the Innisfail Municipal Hospital Board) will be shared on the basis of 70 per cent from the Red Deer municipality, 20 per cent from the Town of Innisfail, 10 per cent from other councils in the area and a grant of \$1500 per bed from the Government of Alberta. Present plans call for a 30-bed capacity.

TRAILER LICENSES

Brandon - License fees for persons who live in trailers have been approved by city council. Charges are \$6 per month for trailers in registered trailer courts and \$10 per month for trailers on private property. The money will be used to pay costs of education and other services.

THIS MONTH

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THE FORM AND THE FORMULA

BY T. D. BRUCE, STATISTICIAN,
DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

TEXT OF MR. BRUCE'S ADDRESS AT THE BANFF SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS DURING
THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION COURSE IN JUNE



I have been asked to speak about the Tax-Grant notification forms and the Municipalities Assistance Act.

Sections 550a of The City Act, 370a of The Town and Village Act and 347a of The Municipal District Act require all municipalities to mail Grant-Tax Notification forms to their ratepayers in a form prescribed by The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

The form in manner in which these notices are to be handled were covered by a Ministerial Order of October 9, 1957 and subsequently published in the Alberta Gazette as a regulation under The Regulations Act.

An explanatory letter and a copy of the regulations were mailed to all Secretary-Treasurers on October 23 last year. From this and a full page article appearing in the March 1958 issue of THE COUNSELLOR. I believe all of you understand what is required.

Therefore unless there are any questions, I do not think there is any need for me to go over all the details except to mention a couple of things that (judging from notices already received) seem to be causing some trouble.

We in the Department feel that the general form as laid out in the Regulations should be followed and not changed from municipality to municipality. Remember that the form was drawn up with the idea of uniformity as it applies to all municipalities in the Province and the only change that we feel should be made is the addition or subtraction of specific grants as they apply to each municipality.

The part of the form showing the levy should show the actual estimated total levy in dollars and cents broken down as to municipal, school and hospital purposes and not the mill rates as many are doing.

HOSPITAL GRANTS

Hospital grants are causing some trouble to both the department and municipal authorities. When the notice was drawn up we could not anticipate the form that the new Hospital Plan would take. At that time we knew that the Province would never receive full recognition for its contribution for hospitalization and anticipated that municipalities under agreements would show the amount received by them while municipalities contributing by requisition to hospital districts would use an amount arrived at in the same manner as school grants. Municipalities not under agreements or not forming a part of a hospital district could not of course show any grant. This of course no longer holds true.

Under the new hospital plan there are no longer any agreements and all municipalities are contributing by way of a requisition. We feel that each notice should indicate some Provincial assistance. The difficulty is to determine the amount and I would like to offer the following two suggestions which I know are acceptable to the Department:

1. Municipalities that are part of a hospital district to which they contribute by way of a requisition can arrive at a figure determined by the grant paid to the hospital prorated in the same ratio as their requisition bears to the total requisition.

2. Any municipality, including those in hospital districts, can show an amount which we suggest should be equal to ten dollars per capita. We feel that this is reasonable as all hospitals are receiving a basic per-patient day payment from the Province in the neighborhood of \$10.00 per day which multiplied by the total Provincial population of 1,186,129 would equal a provincial contribution of \$11,861,290.00. Statistics show that there are about 2 million (1,988,897) patient days per year which at \$10.00 per day would equal twenty million dollars. The appropriation for the hospital scheme is \$23,989,500.00 of which the Dominion Government is expected to pay six million and the municipalities \$3,700,000.00 leaving the Province's contribution at some fourteen million as compared to the \$11,861,290.00 which we are asking for through the \$10.00 per capita rate.

This of course is not compulsory and is offered only as a solution to a perplexing problem in our first year under the new hospitalization plan.

MUNICIPALITIES ASSISTANCE ACT

I will now try to give you a brief explanation of the new Municipalities Assistance Act.

You will all recall that the former Municipal Assistance Act provided for grants to all municipalities from a fund equal to one half the net receipts collected under the terms of the Fuel Oil Tax. This fund was divided in the ratio of the urban and rural populations of the Province as established by the Dominion Census into an urban municipalities fund and a rural municipalities fund. The urban municipalities received their share as a straight per capita grant and the rural municipalities received 40% of their share as an equalized grant based on the factors of population, area and equalized assessment with the remaining 60% as a grant calculated on the per thousand dollar rate of equalized assessment.

Prior to 1957 rural municipalities received 47% of the total fund based on the 1951 Dominion Census. Last year based on the 1956 Dominion Census they received only 38.7% of the fund. The Government did not feel that this was equitable because although the census showed a shift in population our statistics did not show a corresponding shift in municipal financial responsibilities.

We were asked to try and find a new method of distribution that would be equitable and meet the following stipulations:

1. All municipalities should share in the distribution in the same manner as a continuation of the division between urban and rural municipalities was not practicable or desirable.

2. No municipality should receive less than it received last year because it was our responsibility and fault if a municipality had become accustomed to a grant greater than a new formula might indicate that it should have been receiving.

Any of you who have tried anything like this will realize what we were up against. We have felt for a long time that per capita assessment was not only an indication of a municipalities ability to pay its own way but a measure of its need for basic assistance and with the new equalized assessments as established by the Assessment Equalization Board we were able to devise a new formula which is the basis of the new "Municipalities Assistance Act".

NEW FORMULA

We are quite proud of the results of this new formula as we feel that it produces a much more equitable distribution than any formula tried to date.

Only 6 municipalities out of more than 300 receive less than last year and the six are guaranteed that they will not receive less than last year. Where it was found necessary under the old Act to stipulate that no rural municipality could receive a grant in excess of \$130,000.00, the new Act provides grants to five counties and 18 Municipal Districts of more than this amount with several others approaching this amount and rural municipalities as a group are back to 45% of the total amount.

The main differences between the old and new Act are:

- (1) The total amount available for distribution is no longer tied in with the Fuel Oil Tax. It is now an appropriation as set by the Legislative Assembly. This years appropriation is fifteen million dollars as compared to some twelve and one-half million if it has remained as 50% of the Fuel Oil Tax.

- (2) There is no longer a division into an urban and rural fund. All municipalities share from the one fund according to the same formula. (More on Page 5)

THE FARM PURCHASE CREDIT ACT

BY G. R. STERLING, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT,

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Farm Purchase Credit Act, which is Chapter 23 of the Statutes of Alberta, was passed in 1957 and amended somewhat during the 1958 Session. The purpose of this Act is to assist young farmers to purchase economic farm units, either by adding land to their existing units or by purchasing total units, and to provide a substantial down payment to those selling the land. It is not the purpose nor intent of the Act that the seller should receive 100% cash payment for his land.

The Farm Purchase Credit Act cannot be invoked in a County, Municipal District or Improvement District unless and until the local government applies to the Provincial Government to have a Farm Purchase Board established. The local district must pay 20% of any loss which might occur, therefore, the Provincial Government feels that the local area should decide on a voluntary basis whether or not they wish to operate this Act within their area. After an Application has been received and the Farm Purchase Board for the area established, application may be made by farmers to the local Farm Purchase Board.

Those wishing to buy land must make out an Application on a prescribed form and submit it to the local Farm Purchase Board. This application must be signed by the Purchaser, his wife who indicates her willingness to be a party to the transaction, and the Vendor of the land indicating his willingness to sell the land for a certain figure and that he is prepared to carry 40% of the purchase price for a period which he and the Purchaser may elect and which may not exceed twenty years.

PURCHASER QUALIFICATIONS

The Farm Purchase Board then investigates the Application and approves of it or otherwise. The qualifications of the applicant are as follows:

1. Canadian Citizen or British Subject.
2. Must be between the ages of 21 - 55 inclusive.
3. Been resident in Alberta at least three years.
4. Has had three years farming experience and has displayed average ability and capacity.
5. He is of good character.
6. His spouse, if any, approves of the application.

The applicant must also have the down payment of 20% of the purchase price, or, in the case of a father-son deal the down payment may be waived provided the father is prepared to give the Board a receipt to the effect that he has received value in the amount of the 20% down payment. The purchaser should have other assets besides the down payment, i.e., he will be required to prove he either has or can obtain the necessary equipment, livestock, etc., required for one who is in the farming business.

The local Board must approve of the application and it must also be approved by the Municipal or County Council and the Provincial Advisory Board.

When all three have approved of an Application the applicant must leave a 20% down payment with the Board, or a receipt in lieu of it, and the seller must give a registerable transfer of the land to the Farm Purchase Board. When this transfer is registered in the appropriate Land Titles Office, the Seller receives the 20% down payment and an Agreement of Sale covering the remaining 40% which must be carried by the Vendor for the term agreed upon. As soon as the Farm Purchase Board forwards a promissory note to the Provincial Government covering 40% of the total purchase price, the 40% loan, which is made by the Government to the farmer through the Farm Purchase Board, is forwarded to the Vendor. The maximum amount that can be loaned by the Government through a Farm Purchase Board is \$7,500.00. This amount would cover a place costing a total of \$18,750.00. A place costing this amount would require a down payment of \$3,750.00; a loan of \$7,500.00 would be forthcoming through the Board from the Government and the Vendor would have to carry the remaining \$7,500.00.

INTEREST at 5%

The purchase payments are made on an amortized basis with in-

terest at 5%. The Farm Purchase Board on the other hand pays 4 1/2% interest to the Government and Vendor. The 1/2 of 1% interest difference is ear-marked to come to the Provincial Government to be used for premiums on a Life Insurance Policy covering the purchaser's life in the amount of his loan. In other words, the policy will always be sufficient to pay out the indebtedness of the purchaser. The remaining interest paid by the purchaser is just sufficient to pay the 4 1/2% on what the Board owes to the Government and the Vendor. The part of the purchaser's payment which is *principal* is divided equally between the Government loan and the Agreement of Sale carried by the Vendor; after 5% has been withheld and placed in the Assurance Fund. At the end of the contract, the money in the Assurance Fund is taken out of this fund and half of it goes to the Provincial Government and half to the Vendor.

The Assurance Fund is being established by the Province so as to allow boards to borrow from it to pay the Vendor in years when the Purchaser cannot pay because of some of the hazards that go with farming.

The Farm Purchase Board guarantees to pay the Vendor the amount of the note which he carries whether the Purchaser pays for the land or not. However, should a loss occur the Vendor must assume 10% of the loss, the other 90% being made up - 70% by the Government and 20% by the County, Municipal District or Improvement District. ●



SECRETARY'S

CALENDAR

Municipal District Act

Every Month

5th - Within 5 days after the end of each month, secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in minutes. Sec. 61 (v).

Town and Village Act

Every Month

15th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter in minutes. Sec. 67 (r).

Tax roll must be prepared by September 1st. Sec. 368.

Tax Recovery Act

August 1 - Not later than August 1st Land Titles Office shall notify registered owners, etc., of Tax Arrears List.

Assessment Act

August 31 - Personal property which becomes liable to assessment in any year may be assessed any time before September 1st in that year. Sec. 8 (10). ●

MUNICIPALITIES GET \$5 MILLION TAXATION BREAK

OTTAWA-Canadian municipalities got a \$5,000,000-a-year tax break Tuesday night, June 17 from the federal government.

Finance Minister Fleming announced in his budget speech that, effective today, six more items, when purchased by municipalities, will be exempt from the 10 per cent sales tax.

They are: goods for use as part of sewage and drainage systems; culverts; fire truck chassis on which firefighting equipment is to be permanently attached; fire hose including couplings and nozzles; structural aluminum for bridges (steel and concrete for bridges are already exempt); and diesel fuel for use in generating electricity.

Another immediately effective exemption will help school boards buying classroom equipment.

- Edmonton Journal

The FORM and the FORMULA
(From Page 3)

(3) As already mentioned each municipality is guaranteed a grant of not less than the amount received in 1957 until such time as its factors of population and assessment are such as to produce a grant of more than this amount. From this time on it will be on its own with a grant of either more or less as determined by the formula.

In fairness to the other municipalities the Act also provides that in case of a decrease in the total amount available, that any municipality with a guaranteed amount shall receive a grant reduced by the same percentage as the decrease in the appropriation.

(4) There is of course the formula.

It has been found difficult, if not impossible, to find any method of distribution whereby the need for assistance in each municipality can be measured against all others and produce an equitable distribution of the total amount of money available for grants.

EQUALIZATION GRANT

Therefore on the assumption that the municipality with the highest per capita assessment requires the least assistance, we have adopted an Equalization Grant whereby all municipalities share up to this standard.

This principle appears to hold true as the final results show that over 98% of all organized municipalities receive more than last year in amounts ranging from nothing to some 300%. Those receiving little or no increase will have to console themselves with the thought that in some cases they are lucky because of the guarantee and in others that perhaps under the old system they were receiving too much in relation to the other municipalities.

Actual distribution has been made by way of two grants:

- (1) One-quarter of the fund or \$3,750,000.00 has been distributed as a straight per capita grant at \$3.16 per person.
- (2) Three-quarters of the fund or \$11,250,000.00 has been distributed as an "Equalization Grant".

The distribution is based on three factors:

- (1) The actual population of each municipality as established by the 1956 Dominion Census or an actual census taken by the municipality.
- (2) The density of population per township applied to each municipality to compensate for sparsely settled areas in accordance with the following table:

1 to 50 people per township	weighted by 4
51 to 100 " " "	" " 3 1/2
101 to 150 " " "	" " 3
151 to 200 " " "	" " 2 1/2
201 to 250 " " "	" " 2
251 to 300 " " "	" " 1 1/2

In the 301 and up range, municipalities appear to reach a level whereby they are able to stand by themselves in comparison to other municipalities for an equitable share of the money.

Since improvement districts and the special areas, through their relationship to the Provincial Government do not have the same basic costs as other municipalities for such things as administration and roads, and through their nature have not reached a point where they require the same level of assistance as organized municipalities, improvement districts are reduced or "weighted" by one-half and the special areas left at one or no weighting. School Districts in National Parks are also reduced or "weighted" by one-half as they have no responsibility for municipal matters. This will be done arbitrarily since their actual density of population figures indicate that they are entitled to weighting according to the table.

(3) The per capita assessment of each municipality calculated on the basis of equalized assessments at 60% of improvements and 1954 replacement costs as established by the Assessment Equalization Board.

From this information an "Equalization Factor" has been calculated for each municipality. Each year the municipality with the highest per capita assessment will set the standard to which we will equalize all other municipalities. The equalization factor for each municipality has been calculated as follows: the highest per capita

assessment less the municipality's per capita assessment times the municipality's population times the weighting factor.

Each grant has then been calculated according to the following equation:

(The municipality's population × $\frac{\$3,750,000.00}{\text{The total population}}$) plus

(The municipality's (Equalization factor × $\frac{\$11,250,000.00}{\text{The total of all Equalization factors}}$))

LIAISON LIBRARY

BOOK REVIEW

(A card or a call will give you the books reviewed below ... or others in The LIAISON LIBRARY ... for a period of three weeks. We'd like these books to be read and enjoyed. Are YOU interested?)

GUIDE TO COMMUNITY ACTION

By Mark S. Matthews
(Harper & Brothers. 425pp)

This is a book for anyone interested in the work of a local, state, or national volunteer association. Mr. Matthews not only describes procedures for developing an effective community organization, he also offers plans for a wide variety of service projects with detailed information concerning where volunteers may turn for materials, guidance and help.

Here are specific suggestions for community programs of sports and recreation, safety, health, welfare, religion, education, brotherhood, international relations, vocational guidance, the arts, conservation, government, and many other areas of activity whose effectiveness depends upon citizen action.

An outstanding feature of the book is the list, at the end of each chapter, of "Sources of Aid." This material, which is assembled here for the first time, includes pamphlets, films, counseling services and other helps available--either free or at nominal cost--to community groups. The sources, both public and private, include foundations, universities, governmental agencies, welfare associations and business corporations.

The Appendix contains a concise guide to parliamentary procedure as well as a short introduction to effective speech for group leadership.

This GUIDE TO COMMUNITY ACTION provides a unique compilation of ideas and facts which should find its way to the bookshelves of community workers as inevitably as a dictionary finds its way to editors' desks.

* * * * *

PUBLIC RELATIONS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

By Louis B. Lundborg
(Harper & Brothers. 223 pp)

This is the first book to consider fully the problems of public relations in the local community--an area which business government and social agencies alike now recognize as of prime importance in the molding of public opinion.

The book is divided in two main parts, dealing respectively with the "why" and the "how". In the first section the author explains why commercial organizations should be more conscious of public relations, pointing out ways in which a company may profit by being a good citizen and neighbor.

The second, or "how" section, shows how a firm can establish its public relations on a firm footing, by participating in local causes, aiding schools and public institutions, cooperating with local government and carrying a full share of civic responsibility. The book is filled with concrete examples of right and wrong ways to handle specific problems. Although the emphasis is upon business concerns, the methods outlined here apply as well to the conduct of government, charitable, and other non-commercial organizations in local areas.

Banff National Park, established in 1855, is the oldest in Canada.

* * * * *

Be sure brain is engaged before putting mouth in gear.

TOWARD ASSESSMENT EQUALIZATION

BY J. B. LAIDLAW, ASSESSMENT COMMISSIONER, AND
CHAIRMAN, ASSESSMENT EQUALIZATION BOARD

BASIS OF MR. LAIDLAW'S ADDRESS DURING THE REFRESHER COURSE AT BANFF

The problem of assessment equalization is one which has caused taxing authorities considerable difficulty over a long period of time. Widely recognized as being desirable and even necessary, its progress has not been rapid. Indeed, here in Alberta, we anticipate it will require a number of years yet before we can claim to have achieved a full application of the principles of assessment equalization.

Back in 1929, the Provincial Government provided legislation authorizing the appointment of a Director of Assessments. The duties of the Director briefly were to encourage the establishment of sound assessment principles and practices throughout the Province. To this end, one of the first projects undertaken was the preparation of an Assessment Manual for the use of assessors in Alberta municipalities. The Assessment Manual thus prepared was subsequently revised from time to time and finally prescribed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs as the basis on which all taxable property should be assessed apart of course from cities, the city assessor being responsible for the level of value used. This latter deviation eventually placed city assessors in the position where it was difficult to prove that property assessments were in fact representative of fair actual value as required under The City Act with the result that city assessors consulted with the Director of Assessments after which the Director recommended to the Minister a level of value which was prescribed for use in the particular city.

BOARD APPOINTED

With the appointment of an Assessment Equalization Board late in 1957, The Municipalities Assessment and Equalization Act provided certain duties and outlined the authority whereunder the Board might carry out its functions. At the moment, this Statute authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to prescribe the purpose or purposes for which equalized assessments shall apply and at present equalized assessments have application to requisitions payable under The Hospitalization Benefits Act in addition to being a factor in the distribution of grants payable under The Municipalities Assistance Act. For the year 1958 the Board was authorized to act pursuant to regulations passed under The Hospitalization Benefits Act which regulations in part authorized the placing of assessments of all municipalities on a common basis of valuation.

By reason of the use of the Assessment Manual presently prescribed, the Board was able to obtain definite information establishing the level of value used for assessment purposes in towns, villages and rural municipalities. It was also possible through the cooperation of city assessors and from Departmental information available on this subject for the Board to ascertain the degree to which assessments in cities varied from other municipalities. You will be interested to know that approximately forty-six per cent of the total assessable property in the Province is to be found in the Cities of Edmonton and Calgary wherein incidentally, the level of value approximates replacement cost in the years 1944 - 45. For this reason the Board decided to use as a common basis the level of value represented by replacement cost in the year 1945 as a result of which values in all municipalities were brought to this level. Again, because buildings and improvements in seven of the nine cities are taxed at sixty per cent of fair actual value, the common basis of value applied to buildings and improvements in all other municipalities was thereby reduced which resulted in equalized assessments at a level below the actual taxable assessment.

NEW MANUAL

The Department of Municipal Affairs is presently preparing a new Manual based on 1950 replacement cost and by an amendment to The Assessment Act at the 1958 Session of the Legislature, buildings and improvements in all municipalities other than cities will be assessed at sixty per cent of fair actual value effective July 1, 1958. The Department, with the unanimous approval of all city assessors, contemplates that the new Manual will have a general application to all municipalities and it would seem, therefore, that within a reasonable length of time real property assessments in all municipalities throughout the Province will be established at a uniform level. When this situation comes to pass the Board is of the opinion that depending upon what factors may be considered as having a bearing, assessments of municipalities established in accordance with the Manual may then be varied as required thus reflecting a proper ratio of assessed value to



ASSESSMENT EQUALIZATION BOARD - These three men are guiding Alberta municipalities toward the goal of equalized assessments throughout the entire Province. The Board, appointed last December, are Dr. Eric Hanson, University of Alberta, member; Bruce Laidlaw, chairman; J. H. Todrick, former chairman of the Special Areas Board, member.

market value.

The Board is presently receiving information as to sales recorded and it is our intention to establish an assessment sales ratio for all municipalities. Sales data will be checked as far as possible and correlated with appraisals to ensure the greatest measure of equalization within various municipalities.

Equalized assessments as established by the Board for the year 1958 represents assessment totals for each municipality adjusted to the level of 1945 replacement costs. Having in mind the rather limited time at the Board's disposal after appointment, it was considered impractical, if not impossible, to implement any involved scheme of equalization for this year. As I said, therefore, the equalization program adopted for the current year merely attempts to place property assessments in all municipalities on a common basis of valuation.

I have also referred to the fact that for this year the degree of equalized assessments has application only in so far as The Hospitalization Benefits Act is concerned and, in addition, for some limited use in the grant formula adopted pursuant to The Municipalities Assistance Act. As further progress is made, it is probable that the scale of assessments resulting from principles outlined by the Board will serve numerous purposes, including the basis of taxation. It is hoped that the methods so formulated will prove acceptable to all concerned. There is no doubt that the whole program will require a considerable time and effort to establish. But there is even less doubt that the results will be well worth while.

THE CITY ACT OF 1951

There are other areas in which uniformity is desirable. For example, uniformity of the qualifications of voters and councillors in the different cities removes discriminatory features that were present with differentiation. With the growth of provincial grants based upon assessed values, uniform assessment practices have become a pressing requirement. Different assessing techniques and exemption regulations give no real indication of the relative property values among cities and make mill-rate comparisons misleading.

- Dr. Hanson's "LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ALBERTA"

SECRETARIES AT BANFF

(From Page 1)

All In Counties

Mr. Hayes regretted the suspension of MFC operations before the rural people "got much of a shot at it", but hoped that "some day it will come back into operation". Turning to the Alberta County System, Mr. Hayes said he expected it would "not be too long before we're all in them." He felt the system should also be made applicable to urban municipalities.

A sombre note was his tribute to the late Mr. Haarstad, who has made a distinguished contribution to municipal affairs in this Province. "He was here last year", said Mr. Hayes.

An address by Alan Brownlee, Q.C., entitled "The Role of Secretary-Treasurers" emphasized the importance of being familiar with municipal legislation. He dealt at length with examples of procedures necessary for the acquisition of land for road construction and drainage purposes. Independent witnesses, dower rights, trespass, expropriation, compensation and other legal problems were also covered in detail, all of which were of great practical interest to the gathering.

Professor J. D. Campbell's address on the Alberta Hospitalization Benefits Act took the form of a series of questions and answers. Much of the discussion revolved around provisions regarding capital charges, which he said were rated on current debenture payments. Satisfaction was far from unanimous, but fairly general agreement was reached as to the greater equity resulting from the new Act. Mr. Campbell felt that the situation would improve if, as and when an agreement was signed between the federal government and the Province, and at one point he suggested that at some later date it could be that the Province would absorb the total of these capital charges.

Administration Courses

The lively interest in the new hospitalization plan put the program somewhat behind schedule, but after a coffee break, the gathering turned its attention to the forthcoming municipal administration courses. Mr. Duncan Campbell, Extension Director, University of Alberta, (under whose direction the courses are being organized) led the discussion. The subject proved to be of extreme interest, so much so that the gathering broke up into small groups to formulate suggestions for the guidance of those responsible. The opinions expressed by members of each group displayed a noticeable degree of similarity; most of the groups favoring a period of four years to cover the courses, and with due emphasis being placed on public relations, history of local government, municipal law, assessment, business administration and commercial law, in something of that order.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Campbell said the courses would have "a profound effect on municipal administration in this Province" and expressed the view that it was very desirable to follow the trend toward professionalization now evident in many other lines of work. He said the obvious advantages to follow certification included public recognition, greater security of position, and the assurance of greater efficiency. He listed the sponsors as the Department of Municipal Affairs, the University, the Secretary-Treasurers' own association and (in the case of the assessors' course) the Appraisal Institute of Canada and The Association of Assessing Officers of Alberta.

Departmental Officials

The Tuesday morning session was turned over to officials of the Department of Municipal Affairs, with Angus Morrison, Deputy Minister, leading off with a general review of the municipal scene. Mr. Morrison noted several changes in secretary-treasurer personnel throughout the Province and next introduced members of the Department who were present. He said Ian Morris, member of the Alberta Assessment Appeal Board, is a solicitor with considerable municipal experience who would be pleased to help secretary-treasurers with their legal problems.

Mr. Morrison expressed satisfaction that tax collections were 98.7 per cent of the 1957 levy both in counties and municipal districts, but warned his hearers that arrears in Alberta (48 per cent of the 1957 levy in counties and 52 per cent in our municipal districts) were among the highest of all Canadian Provinces. He stressed the importance of giving greater attention to this phase of municipal work. On the other side of the ledger, he complimented municipal district councils for increasing their cash reserves by 61 per cent during the year just ended. The counties could well follow this example, the Deputy concluded.

Mr. Morrison next introduced T. D. Bruce, Departmental Statistician, who discussed the grant-tax notification forms and the revised

formula for distributing grants under the new Municipalities Assistance Act. Mr. Bruce pointed out that the notification form was prescribed under regulations and suggested that the form should be followed by all for the sake of uniformity. He said it was realized there would be some difficulty in reporting provincial sharing in hospital costs, but for this year at least a sum of \$10 per patient day would be a reasonably close estimate.

Referring to the new system of distributing provincial revenue to our municipalities, Mr. Bruce stated that the former distinction between rurals and urbans has been dropped and that every municipality shares in the \$15,000,000 appropriation this year according to the same formula. He said the new formula produces a more equitable distribution and the Department was, indeed, "quite proud" of the result.

Bruce Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector, dealt with amendments to municipal legislation. He said he still gets enquiries regarding the minimum or poll tax and emphasized that this was no longer in effect. Mr. Ramsay then explained the changes in the various acts including The Municipal District Act and in answer to questions expressed his view that official notices in newspapers circulating throughout each district would meet all the requirements of the Act.

Dealing with assessment matters, Bruce Laidlaw, Assessment Commissioner, said the Department is ready to help any municipality wishing to apply a business tax. He pointed out that exemptions on churches have been limited to places of worship only, with all other types of church property now subject to assessment and taxation. Mr. Laidlaw spent some time explaining the work of the Assessment Equalization Board and referred to the new Assessment Manual now being prepared. He said city assessors would in all probability be using the standards set forth in it.

Farm Purchases and Education

Tuesday afternoon G. R. Sterling, Executive Assistant with the Department of Agriculture, presented each secretary-treasurer with a folio of forms relating to The Farm Purchase Credit Act. During his address Mr. Sterling indicated that the majority of municipalities now have boards, but added that there was still some reluctance in regard to the actual sale of farms under the Act.

Tuesday evening, a banquet was held at which Senator Donald Cameron delivered an address on the problems of education. Senator Cameron heads a royal commission now investigating the entire field of education and his remarks were received with keen interest by those in attendance.

Wednesday Morning

Much of Wednesday morning was devoted to an address by Col. Ewman, representing the Department of Veterans' Affairs, in which he related federal aid for veterans to municipalities. Questioned by secretaries about specific cases arising in their districts, he promised that they would be given every consideration.

The quiz conducted regularly by E. W. Stutchbury, Q.C., was based this year on the relationship which exists between municipal districts or counties and towns. He regretted the not infrequent line between people in these two areas and stressed the importance of promoting better relations between them. In his usual affable form, Mr. Stutchbury kept interest rolling with a series of nine practical questions which as he pointed out were designed to stimulate greater co-operation between various municipal bodies.

MORNING in the HEART

I am still at work, with my hand to the plow, and my face to the future. The shadows of evening lengthen about me, but morning is in my heart. I have lived from the forties of one century to the thirties of the next. I have had varied fields of labor, and full contact with men and things, and have warmed both hands before the fire of life.

The testimony I bear is this: that the Castle of Enchantment is not yet behind me. It is before me still, and daily I catch glimpses of its battlements and towers. The rich spoils of memory are mine. Mine, too, are the precious things of today - books, flowers, pictures, nature, and sport. The first of May is still an enchanted day to me. The best thing of all is friends. The best of life is always further on. Its real lure is hidden from our eyes, somewhere behind the hills of time.

- Sir William Mulock

TOWN OF THE MONTH



FIFTY YEARS OLD - Opening June 15 with a prayer service, week-long festivities in the Town of Wainwright marked fifty years of progress and attracted thousands from the town and district. A giant parade, a military display, a park opening a mammoth street dance and a two-day stampede were highlights of the celebration.

HOW IT BEGAN WAINWRIGHT

The area surrounding Wainwright was settled by homesteaders in the years 1905-6. The majority of these early settlers were English speaking; they came from Eastern Canada and the United States. A few were French descent from Quebec.

This rolling land with its sparse tree growth appealed to early settlers because it would require less effort to clear and make ready for the plough. Three of the early pioneers who were mostly responsible for the development of this district were H. Y. Pawling, J. H. Dawson and M. L. Forster.

Population increased rapidly after the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway arrived in 1909, when Wainwright was established as a divisional point.

The town was named after Wm. Wainwright who at that time was second Vice-President of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. Prior to June 1, 1908, the post office was named Denwood.

Wainwright was erected as a village July 14, 1908, when J. H. Dawson was mayor and H. Fieldstone, secretary. It was incorporated as a town July 14, 1910. The first town mayor was H. Y. Pawling, and the first councillors were R. Snyder, W. B. Crawford, W. E. Mills, W. J. Musson, C. T. Lally and G. H. Beaudry.

The first business enterprise on the new townsite was the old Wainwright hotel, built and operated by M. L. Forster. First public building was the town hall, built in 1910, and the next was the post office with Norman Culp as postmaster.

At 7:15 p.m. on November 22, 1909, the first regular train left Wainwright for Edmonton.

Wainwright Public School District No. 1658 was established June 25, 1907. It was included in Wainwright School Division No. 32 on January 1, 1941. Wainwright School Division No. 32 was established on September 20, 1938. Wainwright Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 31 was established on June 28, 1932; this district is independent of the school division.

Wainwright Municipal Hospital District No. 17 was established October 2, 1926. A 21 bed municipal hospital was opened on June 20, 1928, and a 30 bed addition placed in operation September 9, 1948.

The Dominion Government set aside 234 sections of land (234 sq. miles) which adjoined the town on the south, as a park and game preserve. It is known as "Wainwright Park" and proved to be a great tourist attraction. The policy when laying out this park was to keep the park in its natural state as near as possible. There were no graded roads, tourists travelled through the park over the original wagon trails.

In 1910 the reserve was completed and the first animals were brought in (740 buffalo). Other animals such as moose, elk and deer

were brought in later. Great success was achieved in experimental cross breeding. In 1941 the animals were removed and the park transferred to the Department of National Defence.

This area that was once park, is now the second largest military training camp in Canada. It is administered by Headquarters Western Command. It has its own water and sewerage system. Water is obtained from a dam on the Battle River, six miles north. A fully modern 100 bed hospital is operated and the camp is housed in fully insulated permanent buildings, many of steel construction. The camp is operated the year round for operational training of active force units, and seasonal training of reserve units. Approximately 100 modern family units are presently in use.

Oil and gas was found in the vicinity of Wainwright during 1924, when British Petroleum Ltd. did some exploratory drilling.

An oil refinery was built about four miles north of the town in 1929. This refinery operated at its full capacity of 250 barrels per day; oil was hauled to the refinery in trucks from points nine miles southwest. However, the plant was soon removed to its present site one mile west of the town, when its capacity was increased to 3,000 barrels daily, and later 4,500 barrels.

In July 1929, fire destroyed the entire business section.

The Royal North West Mounted Police were established at Wainwright prior to 1917. From 1917 to 1932 the local detachment was a unit of the Alberta Provincial Police; in 1932 it was taken over by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Water works were installed in 1930 and considerably extended in 1950.
(From an Economic Survey Prepared by
The Industrial Development Branch,
Department of Economic Affairs)

HOSPITAL AGREEMENT SIGNED

Agreement on hospitalization between Ottawa and the Government of Alberta was completed on June 20 with Dr. J. Donovan Ross, Minister of Health, signing for the Province after protracted negotiations. In Ottawa, Dr. Ross said he expects that starting July 1, Alberta will receive about \$1,000,000 a month in federal contributions toward hospital operating costs here. He expressed disappointment over Ottawa's refusal to include capital costs and co-insurance charges as shareable items.

In his Budget Speech last March, Provincial Treasurer Hinman estimated the federal share would approximate \$6,000,000. He added that the municipalities "will contribute \$3,700,000 and these amounts should be deducted from the amount of \$24,117,400, leaving a net cost to the Province of \$14,417,400".

The only job where you start at the top is digging a hole.



THE BACK FENCE

Acme, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

It is noted on page 5 of the Alberta Municipal COUNSELLOR for June that a minimum salary is fixed in the case of Secretary-Treasurers of rural and village municipalities in Quebec, and I am wondering if this matter is being considered by the Alberta Government?

Awaiting your comments, I am

Yours very truly,

H.W. McCulloch,
Secretary-Treasurer.

* Sorry, not that we have heard of. Ed.

The correspondence section of The Alberta Municipal COUNSELLOR is open to any reader for the discussion of any problem. Questions raised will be answered to the best of our ability. Letters may be signed with a fictitious name if that is desired, but we would ask that the real name of any correspondent be disclosed to the editor. All letters will be answered, but space and general interest must be considered for publication.